

Torrance, California  
November 27, 1945

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, November 27, 1945 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held November 13, 1945 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held November 20, 1945 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Earl D. Frank, 2453-D Torrance Boulevard, requesting a permit to operate a light manufacturing and aluminum foundry business at 120 Arlington Avenue, at the corner of 203rd Street.

Engineer Jain advised that the location is in the multiple family zone, and that it will, therefore, be necessary for Mr. Frank to file an application with the Planning Commission for zoning variance.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. Frank be allowed to operate the business above-named, and at the location specified, until such time as he can submit an application to the Planning Commission for zoning variance, such application to be submitted not later than December 15, 1945, final Council action to be determined by recommendation of the Planning Commission. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that City Clerk Bartlett be requested to advise Mr. Frank of the above action. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from A. K. Hill and N. F. Robison, requesting use of the Civic Auditorium on Friday, December 7, 1945, for the purpose of holding a dance.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this request be granted, the auditorium to be rented at the regular rental fee. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Western Aviation Conference, extending an invitation to attend the Western Aviation Conference to be held in Sacramento Tuesday and Wednesday, December 11 and 12, 1945.

A list of sponsoring organizations of the Conference was enclosed, indicating that organizations from Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington are active sponsors, and have been invited to send representatives to the Sacramento Conference.

Mayor Tolson commented that this conference appears to be one of great interest, as he has heard a great deal of talk about it in Los Angeles.

Councilman Powell moved that Mayor Tolson, as the representative of the City, Otto B. Willett, Deputy City Attorney, and any other member or members of the Council who may desire to attend the meeting, be allowed to do so, expenses paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote:  
AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson.  
NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Acting Secretary, City Planning Commission, advising that, at a public hearing held November 20, 1945, the Petition for Variance and Conditional Permit (Case No. 24) of Martha Jane Rickard, requesting permission to use the existing private residence, at 2252 Carson Street, as a Dramatic Arts Studio, was considered and approved.

It was recommended that the City Council concur in the action of the City Planning Commission in this matter.

Councilman Cucci moved that the Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission as recommended. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 365

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING THE INTENTION OF SAID CITY COUNCIL OF SAID CITY OF TORRANCE TO CALL AN ELECTION UNDER THE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT ACT OF 1935 IN THAT PART OF THE CITY CONTAINED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT, TO BE KNOWN AS "MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE", FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF SAID DISTRICT THE PROPOSITION OF AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS OF SUCH DISTRICT AND FIXING AND GIVING NOTICE OF A TIME AND PLACE OF HEARINGS.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 365 be dispensed with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that Ordinance No. 365 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 366

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, REGULATING THE OPERATION OF TAXICABS AND MOTOR VEHICLES TRANSPORTING PASSENGERS FOR HIRE, UPON THE PUBLIC STREETS OF SAID CITY.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 366 be dispensed with. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci asked for discussion before going further with official action, stating that the ordinance in its present form appears to him to be somewhat dictatorial and questioned the necessity of certain portions of it. He read aloud in particular Section 11, subsection "a" relating to regulation by the Council of fares. He said he could think of no more reason why the Council should set rates for the taxicab business than for any other type of business.

Councilman Powell pointed out that the sole purpose of the ordinance, and all ordinances, is to protect the public, and that only by direct control of the rates by the Council can the public be given a measure of protection against unscrupulous operators. He commented that he had, as had other Council members, heard a number of complaints that overcharges had been made by the taxicab companies, but that, so long as the Council has no control over the rates charged, no effective remedy is in view.

Councilman Cucci replied that the type of operator who would deliberately take advantage of the public should not be in business in the City. He added that he would be willing to adopt the ordi-

nance if a clause were incorporated to the effect that the license would be revoked in these instances, rather than leave the clause in the ordinance vesting the Council with authority to set the rates to be charged by the taxicab companies. He branded the former as "dictatorial".

Councilman Gilbert suggested adopting the ordinance at this meeting for first reading, and making whatever changes as are agreed upon between now and final adoption date, rather than defer the matter for another two weeks before taking the beginning action on it.

Councilman Cucci objected, stating that, in the event changes are made between first and final readings, the ordinance must be presented again for first reading anyway, thus saving no time in the final analysis. He said he would be agreeable to reaching a conclusion at this meeting and adopting the ordinance for first reading.

Councilman Cucci also objected to Section 12, subsection "a", pertaining to exclusive right to the full and free use of the passenger compartment by occupants, and making it unlawful for the operator to solicit or carry additional passengers. He said this amounted to wasted space.

Mayor Tolson commented that it is a recognized fact that, in some cities, heartless individuals work a regular "racket" of this phase of the taxicab business, a so-called partner working with him, and becoming the additional "fare" picked up.

After a short period of continued discussion, it was suggested by Councilman Powell that no action be taken on this ordinance until the December 11, 1945 meeting, to allow time for further study and informal discussion of the various clauses of the ordinance which are very evidently controversial.

Councilman Hitchcock and Councilman Gilbert withdrew their respective motion and second to dispense with further reading of Ordinance No. 366.

Councilman Powell moved that the proposed taxicab ordinance (presented as Ordinance No. 366) be referred back to the entire Council for study and discussion before further action, to be again presented at the December 11, 1945 regular meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$225.00 be made for painting Bus #105. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$51.94, plus tax, be made for cleaning supplies for busses, from Easterday Supply Company. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that Billy C. Slonecker be employed as a mechanic's helper at a salary of \$190.00 per month, effective November 26, 1945, replacing Philip Blake. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that John E. Mock be reinstated to his position as bus operator, at a salary of \$200.00 per month, effective November 26, 1945, Mr. Mock having been on military leave of absence. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci asked Clerk Bartlett to explain why, from a check he had made of gasoline used by the Bus Lines, his record indicated a total gallonage of about 8000 gallons for October, and the report rendered indicated that 8349 gallons had been used.

Clerk Bartlett volunteered to check the records and render a report to Councilman Cucci tomorrow (November 28, 1945).

Councilman Cucci asked Engineer Jain why the Bus Department is charged 75% of the utilities used at the City Yard.

Engineer Jain said it is very simple to explain this, since the Bus Department is the only department which uses the garage at night, and, therefore, he said, 90% would be a more reasonable basis for charging electricity. He said that the telephone bill had increased tremendously after the Bus Lines started using the facilities provided at the City Yard, to the extent that it had finally been necessary to have separate phones installed. He said the water is charged on a 40-60% basis, with the Street Department bearing the largest share.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that upon recommendation of Engineer Jain and Street Superintendent Perkins, any employee ordered to clean or perform work in sewers wherein they have to work down in the manholes, or be in direct contact with the sewage, shall receive additional compensation at the rate of \$20.00 per month for the time actually spent in performing work in such hazardous or contaminated areas, and that no additional compensation shall be granted for installing ordinary sewer connections or for flushing the more modern sewer manholes or lines where sanitary flushing equipment is available and workable without the use of sewer rods and fire hose. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that, upon recommendation of Fred Blake, Park Superintendent, the Water Department be authorized to install one two-inch water meter at the south end of the park strip on Border Avenue. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that, upon recommendation of Fred Blake, Park Superintendent, Frank Cook be transferred from the Park Department to the Recreation Department, replacing Tom Hatfield, deceased, at no change of salary, transfer date effective December 1, 1945, subject to approval of the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Gilbert moved that, upon recommendation of Fred Blake, Park Superintendent, Howard Webb be appointed as Acting Foreman, Park Department, at Foreman's wages, replacing Frank Cook, effective December 1, 1945, pending a Civil Service examination, and subject to approval of the Civil Service Board. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Kerns reported that effort is being expended toward getting a change in telephone service, from the Associated Telephone Company to the Bell Telephone Company, for the area north of Torrance Boulevard between Madrona Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue. He said petitions had been signed for presentation to the Bell Telephone Company, and pointed out that the Associated Telephone Company, with its exchange board in Redondo Beach, cannot serve a district, such as the one mentioned, satisfactorily since most of the calls are Torrance calls, and are, as a result of being served through the Redondo Beach exchange, long distance calls, meaning that there is no local service to Torrance for people who actually reside in Torrance. He said this condition is also complained of in WALTERIA, and suggested that it be taken before the Railroad Commission for settlement.

Mayor Tolson commented that he did not know what steps the Council could take, and suggested that it be referred to the City Attorney for recommendation at the next meeting.



Councilman Powell said he did not think the City Council could do anything about it, but that it would be a concern of the Railroad Commission.

Mr. Thatcher of WALTERIA also spoke regarding this subject, stating that, in order to get action started, it had been felt that the matter should be first presented to the City Council before going further.

Mr. Thatcher asked what progress had been made toward acquisition of the Lomita Flight Strip. Mayor Tolson advised that nothing further has developed, and that the City has not taken any steps toward taking it over. Mr. Thatcher said there is a man from WALTERIA interested in discussion of the question of concessions at the airfield if and when the City acquires same.

Mr. Loughridge stated that, in connection with the question about the telephone service, he doubted very much that any change will be made readily, as the Associated Telephone Company will undoubtedly continue to give service, and that the Railroad Commission has indicated that it will not interfere so long as service is being rendered.

Mr. Calloway of North Torrance brought up the subject of the proposed water district in that vicinity, stating that he had been advised by his attorney to recommend to the Council that the matter only be deferred from meeting to meeting, rather than for ninety days as was done at the meeting of November 20, 1945. He introduced Mr. Montgomery of the Metropolitan Water Company at this time, and asked him to speak relative to use of Colorado River water, as it has been said a number of times that the water is unsatisfactory for irrigation purposes.

Mr. Montgomery stated that Mr. Calloway had called on him in his office of the Metropolitan Water Company today and asked him to appear at the meeting tonight if possible. He explained the chemical composition of the water and stated that its quality is unexcelled for drinking water, and that many experiments have been made in the irrigation of various crops, which have been highly satisfactory. His speech was well received.

Councilman Hitchcock asked him whether or not, in the event North Torrance does form a water district, the present water mains of the Metropolitan Water Company serving that district will be large enough to handle the added service necessary, stating that he had heard rumors to the contrary. Mr. Montgomery replied that the present mains were laid out for very large future growth; that they are being used to nowhere near their capacity, and that the added service will be "a drop in the bucket".

Mr. Plomert of the General Petroleum Corporation asked Councilman Cucci to clarify a statement recently made by him relative to assessed valuations of the General Petroleum Corporation. Councilman Cucci said he would study the valuations handed him by Mr. Plomert just prior to the meeting and try to arrive at a conclusion as to whether or not those figures, or the tax collector's figures, furnished him by Mr. Bartlett, are correct, and will report at the next meeting.

Mr. Calloway was persistent in his recommendation that the Council defer action on the North Torrance water district only from meeting to meeting rather than for ninety days. Councilman Cucci endeavored to explain to Mr. Calloway that, only at the request of North Torrance people at the last meeting had the matter been deferred for ninety days.

Mr. Luken of North Torrance added his voice to the matter, stating that anyone who asked a ninety day delay could not want water in the district.

Mayor Tolson advised that the Council had simply complied with a request when the matter was delayed.

Mr. Lynch questioned the correctness of a bill received by him from the City of Torrance for dumping in the City Dump, ad-

vising that he was under the impression that all residents were entitled to dump without charge.

Engineer Jain explained that anyone who dumps on a commercial scale, which would include, he said, anything like building and construction materials, concrete or steel, or anything not ordinarily picked up by the City trucks, is charged for so doing, which, he continued, is necessary in order to maintain the dump.

Mr. Frohman, speaking on behalf of the taxicab business, stated that, for the record, they favor the ordinance, and any ordinance enacted for the good of the community, but that they favor the taxicab ordinance only provided it is not detrimental to the taxicab business, concluding with the comment, "we would like to still remain in business."

Councilman Gilbert moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:40 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Cucci, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the meeting adjourned.

A. H. B. Bandler  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

[Signature]  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE